

Message Text

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43

ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 ABF-01 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2960

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AODE

SUBJ: MODE

1. SINCE MY LAST MODE COMMUNICATION THERE HAVE BEEN CERTAIN CHANGES IN OUR FUNCTIONS AND THUS SOME DIFFERENCES IN MY THINKING ABOUT STAFFING WHICH I WISH TO RECORD.

2. BEFORE PRESENTING MY RECOMMENDATIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT I HAVE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER FROM ARA/MGT NOR FROM AID/LA ON MY PROPOSAL FOR A JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE. I WAS GIVEN, AT MY REQUEST, A COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE ACTING AID/LA/AA TO THE AID MISSION DIRECTOR VERY MILDING SUGGESTING CONSIDERATION OF CROSS-SERVICING ARRANGEMENTS AND IMPLYING THAT A MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION WOULD REDUCE PRESSURE FOR A JAO. THE AID MISSION HAS BEEN APATHETIC AND NONCOOPERATIVE, EVEN ON CROSS-SERVICING, RELYING HEAVILY ON SUPPORT FROM AID/W NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN ANY ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES. A NEW AID MISSION DIRECTOR FOR BOLIVIA HAS BEEN NAMED AND IS EXPECTED TO BE SWORN IN AT WASHINGTON THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 7. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL WERE A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE STAFF MONITORING MODE TO CONSULT WITH HIM AND ARA/MGT, TOGETHER, ABOUT THE FORMATION OF A JAO.

3. A RADICAL CUT WILL BE MADE IN THE STAFF OF THE MILITARY GROUP DURING FY1977 SINCE THEIR FUNCTIONS ARE DECLINING WITH THE PHASE-OUT OF MAP-GRANT MATERIEL. THE PRESENT AUTHORIZED LEVEL OF 32 AND THE PRESENT ON-BOARD STRENGTH OF 29 WILL BE REDUCED TO 22 BY
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SEPTEMBER 30, 1977. ATTRITION WILL BE THE PRIMARY MEANS OF MAKING

THE REDUCTIONS, ALTHOUGH SOME TOURS WILL BE CURTAILED. THE BASIC SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE TO ME BY COLONEL RICHARD NELSON, ACTING MILITARY GROUP COMMANDER, AND HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY SOUTH COM. THEY ARE NOW BEING REVIEWED IN DOD WITH INFORMAL INDICATION OF APPROVAL. I SHOULD NOTE, TOO, THAT I HAVE ACCEPTED THE REDUCTION OF THE GRADE OF COLONEL TO LT COLONEL FOR THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE CHIEFS. ALSO THE STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MISSION AIRPLANE, TO ARRIVE IN DECEMBER, CAN BE ABSORBED WITHIN THE NEW LOW LEVEL.

4. I AM STILL WORKING ON AID TO CUT THE AMERICAN IN CHARGE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS, AND ON DAO TO ELIMINATE ITS ADMINISTRATIVE NCO. I WILL REPORT LATER ON THESE EFFORTS.

5. I HAVE APPROVED THE ELIMINATION OF THE SECURITY OFFICER POSITION CONCURRENT WITH THE TRANSFER OF VAL CARO TO MONTEVIDEO.

6. I HAVE STARTED AN INQUIRY INTO THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RETENTION OF THE AID REGIONAL AUDITOR'S OFFICE HERE SINCE THE LONE AMERICAN, DALE COLEMAN, SPENDS AN ESTIMATED 50 PERCENT OR MORE OF HIS TIME AWAY FROM LA PAZ. THIS IS NOT THE BEST CENTRAL LOCATION FOR SUCH TRAVEL. AID PROPOSES TO ASSIGN A REGIONAL LEGAL ADVISOR TO LA PAZ WHICH I BELIEVE TO BE A WISE STEP AND APPROVE IT. AS AN OFFSET, I SUGGEST THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE TO RELOCATE THE AID REGIONAL AUDITOR.

7. THERE WILL BE INCREASES IN THE STAFF DIRECTLY RELATED TO OUR NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN VIEW OF A MAJOR BUILD-UP REQUESTED OF SECRETARY KISSINGER BY PRESIDENT BANZER AND APPROVED BY PRESIDENT FORD. I APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO NEW DEA POSITIONS: AN AGENT AND AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. ALSO I AGREE TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN ASSISTANT AID NARCOTICS OFFICER, AND A NEW POSITION IN AID'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION AND CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

8. NO OTHER INCREASES HAVE MY APPROVAL FOR ANY OTHER AGENCIES IN BOLIVIA FOR NARCOTICS WORK.

8. I HAVE SOME OTHER PROPOSALS FOR STAFF CUTS WHICH I MAY MAKE NEXT SPRING, ESPECIALLY IF THE DEPARTMENT'S S&E BUDGET HAS BEEN REDUCED AS I UNDERSTAND IT HAS.

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9. PERHAPS THE ESTABLISHMENT OR UPGRADING OF CONSULAR AGENTS IS NOT IN THE MODE PURVIEW, BUT NONETHELESS I WANT TO RECORD THAT I HAVE PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSULAR AGENT IN COCHABAMBA AND THE UPGRADING OF THE AGENT NOW FUNCTIONING IN SANTA CRUZ.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE IF A MODE OFFICER WOULD REVIEW THIS MESSAGE WITH ARA/MGT AND PROVIDE ME WITH YOUR REACTIONS.

STEDMAN

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